

**MINUTES
EAGAR TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING SESSION
22 W. 2nd St., Eagar, AZ
February 5, 2016 – 12:00 P.M.**

Mayor Bryce Hamblin called the Planning Session to order.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bryce Hamblin, Mayor
James Nelson, Jr., Vice Mayor
Steve Erhart
John O. Phelps
Allen Browning
Debra Seeley
Winslow McNeill

STAFF PRESENT: Tami Ryall, Town Manager
Bruce Ray, Public Works Director
Eva Wilson, Town Clerk
Frank Adams, Fire Chief
Katie Brady, Finance Manager
Michael Sweetser, Interim Police Chief
Jeremiah Loyd, Community Development Administrator

1. PLANNING SESSION TO DISCUSS THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TOWN OF EAGAR

Mayor Hamblin turned the time over to Town Manager Tami Ryall.

Review of Board and Committee Assignment List

Ms. Ryall received affirmation that all Councilors are content in their Board or Committee assignments for 2016.

Recap of year's accomplishments

Each department administrator gave a brief summarization of their department's accomplishments in a PowerPoint Presentation filed with this date's Council packet materials.

After the Fire Department's presentation, Mayor Hamblin asked for the breakdown for wildland fire assignments. Ms. Ryall stated she will assemble this information and have it available for Council at the next Council meeting.

Financial Overview and Introduction to the FY 2016-2017 Budget Policy Discussion

Ms. Ryall presented the information for the budget goals and objectives from the PowerPoint Presentation. Fiscal year 2016-17 revenues by fund showed that the Town's revenues are 50% General Fund Revenue, 19% HURF Revenue, and 31% Utility Revenue. General Fund sales tax revenue at 34% and state shared revenues at 54% provide the majority of the Town's funding. Budget by function has a new category for debt and this is worked into the budget at 8%. Public Safety continues to consume much of the General Fund funding at 52% with General Administration at 35%.

The GADA Bond will be callable in 2017 with the composition of water at \$596,250, sewer at \$596,250, General Fund at \$643,950, and HURF at \$548,550. The LGIP balance with paying of Ramsey North and half of the WIFA bond for sewer is currently at a little over \$1 million. And the LGIP composition sits at \$526,703 for HURF, \$394,708 for General Fund and \$80,721 for WIFA reserves.

Overview of Industrial Park Masterplan and Economic Development Discussion

The Town has received a USDA grant for \$50,000 to develop a masterplan for 460 acres for the Eagar Industrial Park and adjacent area. The grant allows for a scoping process and stakeholder involvement.

Discussion also included gathering ideas on further economic development with some councilmembers suggesting debt payoff and establishment of healthy reserves and savings to be used only on emergency basis such as having a quarter year of expenditures in savings. Another argument is that the Town is incurring debt by not paying off the high interest rate loans as saving interest rates are still very low.

Councilors stated that their biggest complaints are the sewer rates and roads. They acknowledge that a long-range plan has been developed for roads and they would like to focus on a new sewer rate system that will address the summer and winter sewer rates when water is not actually affecting the sewer system. There will be a need in the future to make significant improvements to the sewer system in the old town site areas. Ms. Ryall will bring back this item for discussion at a future Council meeting.

Items for additional economic development were discussed.

Recap

In summation, Ms. Ryall reiterated the direction Council would like administration to pursue which fell into two categories, budget and economic development. Budgetary issues include:

- Paying off debt;
- Increasing savings/reserves;
- Staffing levels;

Eagar Council Minutes Work Session
February 5, 2016

- Officer pay;
- Rec Center purchase;
- Water/sewer rates;
- Roads and costs;
- Technology investment.

Economic development targeted approaches include:

- Tourism to match the Town's branding and signage;
- Main Street beautification;
- Business incentives;
- Shop local strategies;
- Bashas' expansion;

Ms. Ryall presented the proposed budget calendar for FY 2016-17 with the adoption of the budget planned for June 7, 2016.

The Council planning session adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.

Attest: _____

Mayor: _____

Vice-Mayor: _____

Council: _____

